

August 14, 2012

Dan Ruben  
Executive Director, Equal Justice America  
Building II, Suite 204  
13540 East Boundary Road  
Midlothian, Virginia 23112

Re: Summer Internship at Essex-Newark Legal Services

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I would like to express my gratitude to you and the Equal Justice America family for making my summer internship a worthwhile experience.

I obtained experience working on Expungement issues this past summer as an intern at Essex-Newark Legal Services (ENLS). My work at ENLS strengthened my understanding of how legal services can work to advance the law to protect low-income individuals and affirmed my desire to focus my career on engaging in public interest work. This experience exposed me to a range of critical legal issues facing our clients; above all, I worked with a number of clients who waited as long as ten years to file for an expungement, many demonstrating they engaged in activities that limited the risk of re-offending, were active in various community service projects, and proved that their re-entry into the workplace was in the public interest. My experience working with such clients has demonstrated that low-income individuals have minimal access to financial and informative resources. The ability of the law to protect low-income individuals is limited and many are unable to defend themselves. They face multi-dimensional obstacles and, of limited financial means, many of my clients were trapped by circumstance.

Notwithstanding the statutory requirements for filing an expungement petition in New Jersey, which overwhelmed many of our clients, my managing attorney did everything within her power to guide clients through this process. Prior to my employment at ENLS, I had minimal exposure to expungement issues. Within days of my internship, however, I was analyzing clients' arrest records, drafting petitions, and preparing related documents for submission to appropriate courts, including verifications, proposed order of hearings, closing letters, reviewing a client's criminal case history, filling out transcript request forms and completing forms for certified criminal records.

Not only was I interacting with clients and providing legal assistance but it was our mission to make individuals aware of their legal rights and provide useful information if they choose to pursue a legal case on their own. We also provided information on women's support organizations, food and clothing assistance, and locations of re-entry facilities. During my time at ENLS, my fellow colleagues and I made it possible to reduce our waiting list by more than half. It was a rewarding experience to speak with prospective clients, supply them with a resource packet and reassure them that our office was here to help, giving them a sense of empowerment. Before my exit, I shouldered the responsibility of preparing various documents for our expungement seminar. I organized flow charts for juvenile delinquency and adult

conviction expungement, which had to be updated to reflect recent changes, and I explained the recommended steps clients have to take to prove their expungement is in the public interest.

This opportunity would have not been made possible without your support. I am honored to be a Fellowship recipient and I greatly appreciate the efforts of Equal Justice America.

Respectfully,

Munishwar Lall  
Rutgers School of Law- Newark  
J.D. Candidate – Class of 2014

# **ESSEX-NEWARK LEGAL SERVICES**

A NON PROFIT TAX EXEMPT CORPORATION

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Mr. Dan Ruben  
Executive Director, Equal Justice America  
Building II, Suite 204  
13540 East Boundary Road  
Midlothian, Virginia 23112

Re: Mr. Munishwar Lall Summer 2012 ENLS Internship

Dear Mr. Ruben,

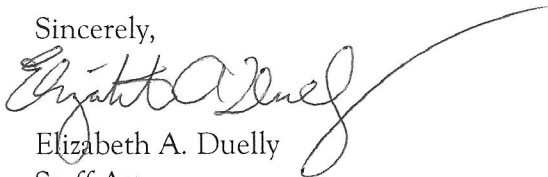
I am very pleased to provide this letter evaluating the Equal Justice America Fellowship of Mr. Munishwar Lall. Essex-Newark Legal Services (ENLS) had the pleasure of hosting Munishwar during the summer of 2012. Munishwar has served as an Expungement Intern at ENLS under my direct supervision. ENLS offers free legal assistance to economically disadvantaged people who cannot secure a lawyer on their own. The goal of our office is to help rebuild impoverished communities and address recurrent problems that otherwise would continue to occur in the lives of low-income individuals. One goal of the expungement unit is to assist clients who are unable to secure employment because of their criminal record(s).

During his time at ENLS, Munishwar frequently met with clients, administered expungement eligibility assessments, obtained and examined clients' criminal case histories, and drafted legal documents. Such documents include expungement petitions, verifications, proposed orders of expungement, and client correspondence. Furthermore, Munishwar prepared various memoranda analyzing statutory interpretations and opinions on juvenile and adult expungement. He provided valuable insight in discussing court opinions, client files, and interactions with personnel from other agencies. Munishwar also contributed by creating and revising documents for the informational packet used in our expungement seminar. This involved the painstaking distillation and analysis of very complicated legal requirements to make them understandable by non-lawyers.

Munishwar excelled at all tasks, demonstrating patience, dedication, and the ability to work under stressful conditions. Munishwar can work independently and follows through to ensure that the job gets done. In addition, he is extremely organized and possesses outstanding computer skills. Munishwar was quick to volunteer to assist in all expungement operations. He is flexible and willing to work on any project that is assigned to him. Munishwar was an incredible asset at ENLS and has my highest recommendation. I would be extremely pleased if he returned to our office in the future. I expect great things from this extremely bright and capable individual. I know he will make a tremendous contribution to society in general and the legal profession in particular. Thank you for providing this grant to fund Munishwar's work with ENLS. We hope you will continue this trend of generosity and fund fellows to work with our office in the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 973-824-3000, ext. 4416 to discuss this outstanding young man.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Duelly  
Staff Attorney